

(b) stimulating a *decapentaplegic* (*dpp*) signaling pathway in at least one stem cell in said population by providing expression of a nucleic acid encoding Dpp,

such that there is an increase in abundance of undifferentiated stem cells in said population as compared to a population of stem cells which has not been stimulated.

40. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said Dpp is ectopically expressed in germarium of said host *Drosophila* using a GAL4 driver and UAS-*dpp*.

Kindly consider the following new claim:

--51. (New) A method according to claim 40, wherein expression of said nucleic acid encoding Dpp is provided by mating *Drosophila* lines containing said GAL4 driver and UAS-*dpp*, respectively.--